

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status Of The Claims

In the Office Action mailed October 31, 2007, Claims 1, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Voss* in combination with *Nonomura* and *Kawai*; Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Voss* in combination with *Nonomura* and *Kawai* as applied to Claims 1, 3, and 8, and further in view of *Akram*; and, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Voss* in combination with *Nonomura* and *Kawai* as applied to Claims 1, 3, and 8, and further in view of *Austin*.

By this reply, Claim 1 has been amended and no claims have been added or canceled. As such, Claims 1, and 3-8 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections Under § 103(a)

Kawai discloses an anode have a U-shaped profile, however *Kawai* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such anode having a lateral or lower portion including a curved surface. If it is contended that *Kawai*'s U-shaped profile includes a curved surface—albeit inherently—the curved surface is proximate the joint regions between the lateral portions and the lower portions of the anode only, and not the lateral or lower portion of the anode itself; as required by Applicant's claimed invention, which curved surface is aimed at following the contour of the vehicle body. In contrast, the lateral portions and the lower portions of the *Kawai*'s anode are planar. See *Kawai*'s figures.

The fact that the lateral portions and the lower portion of *Kawai*'s anode are planar is in accord with electrodes known in the art. Such types of U-shaped electrodes can enclose all sorts of vehicle bodies to be coated without the need of any individual adaption to the contour of the vehicle bodies. However, the resulting coating may be of an inferior quality due to different distances between the outer surface of the vehicle bodies and the planar portions of the U-shaped anode. To the contrary, Applicant's claimed anode comprises at least one lateral and/or lower portion with a curved surface, which enables a much better and more individual adaption of the anode to the contour of the vehicle body in comparison to the state of the art. The more individual adaption to the contour of vehicle bodies to be coated in turn leads to a coating of much higher quality than known to have existed in the art.

Voss and *Nonomura* each fail to compensate for *Kawai*'s shortcomings of disclosing an anode having at least one lateral and/or lower portion with a curved surface. Because the cited prior art, alone or in combination, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element of Applicant's amended Claim 1—as well as all claims ultimately depending thereon, i.e., Claims 3-8—Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed to issue.

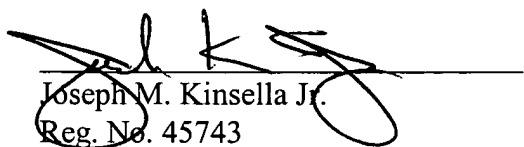
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be removed and all pending claims be passed to issue.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are required, however if any fees are required, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: February 27, 2008

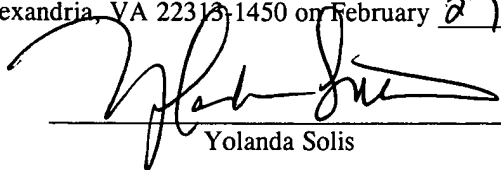


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 27, 2008.



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